

selecting a specific storage location;  
inputting said unit of programming to said selected storage location; and  
storing said inputted unit of programming at said selected location.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein said station comprises a plurality of storage devices, said step of [storing] loading at least one of said units of programming comprises the steps of:

selecting a specific storage device;  
inputting said unit of programming to said selected storage device; and  
storing said inputted unit of programming in said selected storage device.

5. A method of controlling, at an intermediate television transmission station, the communication of television programming to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the storage and communication of said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving units of said television programming, by said station, from a remote television programming source;

receiving signals from said remote source, each of said signals identifying one of said received units or the source of one of said received units;

inputting said signals to the computer;

storing at least one of said received units;

receiving at the computer a programming schedule, said programming schedule designating for at least one of said received units or said at least one stored unit at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating the at least one of said received units or said at least one stored unit to said subscriber; and

(b) a time the at least one of said received units or said at least one stored unit is to be communicated to said subscriber; and

communicating at least one of said received units or said at least one stored unit from said station to said subscriber according to the programming schedule.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said station comprises a plurality of receivers for receiving the received units and the signals, said step of inputting comprising the steps of:  
selecting a specific one of said receivers; and  
inputting said signals received by said selected receiver to said computer.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said at least one stored unit is stored at a local programming source, said local source comprising a television programming storage device located at said station for storing said at least one stored unit.

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of logging said step of communicating.

10. (Amended) A method of controlling, at an intermediate transmission station, the communication of television programming to a subscriber, said station comprising a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving units of said television programming, to be communicated to said subscriber, from a remote television programming source;

loading a plurality of prerecorded units of said television programming, to be communicated to said subscriber, onto a local programming source located at said station;

receiving a plurality of signals from a remote programming source, each of said signals designating one unit of said loaded units and said received units;

identifying in response to each of said signals said one unit designated by said signal, the one unit being selected from:

- (a) the received units received at said station from the remote source; and
  - (b) the loaded units loaded onto the local source, said local source comprising a programming storage device located at said station;
- communicating each said one unit to the subscriber based on said step of identifying.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising a step of receiving a programming schedule, said programming schedule designating at least one of a time and an output channel for communicating each said one unit to said subscriber, wherein said step of communicating comprises the step of communicating each said one unit to the subscriber according to the programming schedule.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said step of communicating comprises the step of communicating each said one unit to the subscriber according to said each of said signals, said each of said signals further designating at least one of a time and a channel for communicating said one unit to the subscriber.

16. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of storing one of said received units received by said station in the storage device.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of identifying comprises the steps of: comparing said each of said signals to data in said programming schedule, said data identifying the one unit;

determining based on said programming schedule whether the one unit designated by said each of said signals will be received from the remote source and should be communicated immediately upon receipt to the subscriber, or whether the one unit is loaded onto the local source and should be output therefrom to the subscriber, each of said prerecorded units loaded onto the local source being stored at a storage location on the local source; and

identifying the storage location of the one unit designated by said each of said signals if the one unit is loaded onto the local source.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein there are different types of said plurality of signals, and only some of said signals each designate one of said one unit.

19. The method of claim 10 and further comprising the step of logging said step of communicating.

20. (Amended) An apparatus located at an intermediate television transmission station for controlling the communication of units of television programming to a plurality of subscribers, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving said units of television programming and signals from a remote programming source, each of said received signals identifying one unit of the received units or identifying the programming source of the received units;

a television programming storage device for storing said units of television programming and for outputting or playing said stored units, said storage device storing signals identifying the stored units;

a switch having inputs operatively connected to said receiver and said storage device, said switch having one or more outputs operatively connected to one or more output channels;

a computer operatively connected to said receiver, said switch and said storage device, said computer having access to a programming schedule, the programming schedule designating for at least one unit of said received units or said stored units at least one of:

- (a) a time to communicate to the subscriber; and
- (b) an output channel to be used for communicating to the subscriber; and

said computer selecting each of said at least one unit of said received units based upon said received signals or [said stored units designated by said programming schedule] based upon

[said received signals and] said stored signals, and said computer configuring said switch and controlling said storage device to communicate said [selected] units of television programming to the subscriber according to said programming schedule.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said storage device comprises a plurality of television programming storage devices connected to said switch, said computer further configuring said switch to select a specific one of said plurality of television programming storage devices.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said received signals further include information designating one of said received units for storage or delayed communication to the subscriber, wherein said computer further operates to control said switch and said storage device to store ones of said received units that are designated by said received signals for storage or delayed communication to the subscriber.

31. A method of controlling at an intermediate television transmission station the communication of television programming to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one unit of said television programming from a remote programming source;

receiving a signal;

storing a plurality of units of said television programming on a local programming source;

receiving a programming schedule designating for said received at least one unit or said stored units at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating said received at least one unit or said stored units;

(b) an approximate time for communicating to the subscriber said received at least one unit or said stored units;

detecting said signal;

passing said detected signal to the computer;

identifying that said detected signal is a predetermined signal; and

communicating one unit of said received unit or said stored units from said station to at least one of said subscriber in response to said step of identifying and according to said programming schedule.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said signal is one of a plurality of different signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-delay signal, and said method further comprises the steps of selecting one of said received at least one unit and storing said selected unit in response to said step of identifying the instruct-to-delay signal, thereby allowing a delayed communication of the selected unit.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the selected unit is identified by said instruct-to-delay signal.

34. The method of claim 32 wherein said selected unit is identified by being transmitted with said instruct-to-delay signal from the remote source.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein said signal is one of a plurality of signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-communicate signal, said step of communicating being performed in response to said step of identifying said instruct-to-communicate signal, said step of communicating comprises the steps of:

selecting a unit from one of:

- (a) the stored units stored on the local source; and
- (b) the received at least one unit received from the remote source; and

communicating said selected unit to the subscriber at a time and on an output channel according to said programming schedule.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein said signal is one of a plurality of different signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-determine-input signal, and said step of communicating comprises the steps of:

selecting a unit from one of:

- (a) the stored units stored on the local source, said local source being operatively connected to a first input of a switch; and
- (b) the received at least one unit received from the remote source, said received unit being operatively connected to a second input of the switch, the switch operatively connecting one of the first and second inputs to a switch output;

identifying one of the first and second inputs from which to communicate said selected unit to the subscriber in response to said instruct-to-determine-input signal;

configuring the switch to transfer the selected unit from the identified input to the switch output;

communicating said selected unit from the switch output to the subscriber according to said programming schedule.

37. The method of claim 31, wherein said signal is one of a plurality of different signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-determine-output signal, and said step of communicating comprises the steps of:

selecting a unit from one of:

- (a) the stored units stored on the local source; and

(b) the received unit received from the remote source;  
identifying an output channel over which to communicate said selected unit to the subscriber in response to said instruct-to-determine-input signal; and  
communicating said selected unit to the subscriber over the identified output channel.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein said signal is one of a plurality of different signals, the station comprising a switch operatively connecting first and second switch inputs to a plurality of switch outputs, each of said switch outputs operatively connected to one said output channel, the stored units and the received unit operatively connected to said first and second switch inputs, respectively, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-transfer signal, and said step of communicating comprises the steps of:

selecting a unit of programming from the stored units or the received unit;  
identifying one of the first and second switch inputs from which to communicate the selected unit;  
identifying one of said switch outputs to which to transfer said selected unit, said one switch output being identified through the designation of the output channel by the programming schedule;

communicating a switch control signal to the switch in response to said steps of identifying said one of the first and second switch inputs and the one switch output;

configuring said switch in response to said switch control signal to transfer said selected unit from said identified one of said first and second switch inputs to said identified one switch output;

communicating the selected unit according to said programming schedule over a cable television distribution system.

39. The method of either of claims 32, 35, or 37 wherein said step of communicating further comprises the steps of:



communicating a switch control signal to a switch;  
configuring said switch in response to said switch control signal to transfer one unit of said received unit or said stored units from a selected input of said switch to a selected output of said switch.

40. (Amended) A method of controlling at an intermediate television transmission station the communication of units of television programming to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving units of said television programming from at least one remote television programming source;

receiving a control signal from said at least one remote source and inputting said control signal together with information designating at least one of:

- (a) one of said received units;
- (b) a programming source; and
- (c) a transmission channel;

selecting one of said received units in response to said inputted control signal and said information;

identifying an [output] input channel in response to said inputted control signal and said information;

receiving a programming schedule designating for each of a plurality of said received units at least one of:

- (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the selected unit; and
- (b) a time said selected unit is to be communicated to said subscriber; and

communicating the selected unit from said station to at least one said subscriber according to the programming schedule.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 40 wherein said station has a plurality of said output channels to be used in communicating said the selected unit to said subscriber, said step communicating further comprising the steps of:

communicating switch control signals to a switch;  
configuring said switch to communicate said selected unit [to] from the identified [output] input channel.

44. The method of claim 40 and further comprising the step of logging said step of communicating.

49. The method of claim 8, 17, or 42 further comprising the step of identifying a specific one of said received units of on the basis of a unit identification signal embedded in said received unit.

50. The method of claim 8, 17, 31, 38 or 42 further comprising the step of logging a unit identification signal identifying at least one of:

- (a) said time; and
- (b) said output channel.

51. The method of claim 5, 11, 31 or 40, wherein said step of receiving said programming schedule comprises the steps of receiving the programming schedule from a remote information source and storing the programming schedule.

52. The method of claim 8, 17, or 42, wherein said programming schedule is received from a remote information source.

53. The method of claim 31, wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:

loading a plurality of prerecorded ones of said units of television programming onto the local source; and

storing a plurality of said received at least one unit on the local source.

54. (Cancelled.)

55. The method of claim 31, wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of receiving a programming transmission via satellite from a television network, said programming transmission comprising said at least one unit of said television programming and one or more digital signals embedded in the programming transmission.

56. (Amended) A method of controlling, at a television transmission station, the communication of programming from at least one programming source to a subscriber, the station including a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one unit of said television programming at the station from a remote television programming source;

loading [or inputting] at least one prerecorded unit of said television programming onto a local programming source;

receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates, for said loaded at least one unit or said received at least one unit, at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating; and

(b) a time for communicating to a subscriber;

selecting one of said loaded or said received at least one unit, based on said programming schedule, for communication from:

(a) said received at least one unit received by said station from the remote source; and

(b) said loaded at least one unit loaded onto the local source;

communicating said selected unit from said station to at least one said subscriber according to said programming schedule; and  
logging and step of communicating the selected unit.

57. (Amended) The method of claim 56 wherein said step of receiving at the computer comprises the steps of receiving said programming schedule from a remote information source and storing the programming schedule in the computer, the programming schedule designating for said received at least one unit or said loaded at least one unit:

- (a) said output channel; and
- (b) the time.

58. The method of claim 56 wherein said step of loading or inputting comprises the step of loading a tape onto a video tape player/recorder, said tape player/recorder located at the station, said tape having said loaded at least one unit prerecorded thereon.

59. (Amended) The method of claim 56 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of receiving a plurality of units of said television programming via satellite [from a television network].

60. The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of storing said received at least one unit received from said remote source on a video tape player/recorder at said station for delayed communication to the subscriber.

61. The method of claim 56, wherein said step of communicating further comprises communicating a unit identification signal with the selected unit, said unit identification signal identifying the selected unit, wherein said step of logging comprises the steps of:

detecting the unit identification signal during said step of communicating; and

creating a record evidencing said step of communicating the selected unit to the subscriber based on said step of detecting.

62. (Amended) A method of controlling, at a television transmission station, the communication of television programming from a plurality of programming sources to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the communication of programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of units of said television programming from a remote television programming source;

storing at least one of said received units received from said remote source at said station;

receiving a programming schedule that designates for at least one unit of said received units or said stored unit at least one of:

- (a) an output channel to be used in communicating; and
- (b) a time for communicated to the subscriber;

selecting [one of said received units or said stored] at least one unit for communication from:

(a) said received units received from the remote source but which are not stored at said station; and

(b) said stored at least one unit;

communicating said selected unit from said station to at least one said subscriber according to said programming schedule; and  
logging said step of communicating.

63. A method of controlling, at a television transmission station, the communication of television programming from a plurality of programming sources to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, said station having a switch, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a receiver located at the station a unit of said television programming from a remote television programming source, the receiver connected to a first input of the switch;

storing a plurality of units of said television programming on a local programming source, the local source being connected to a second input of the switch;

receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates for at least one unit of said received unit or said stored units at least one of:

(a) a time for communication to the subscriber; and

(b) an output channel to be used in communicating to the subscriber;

selecting one unit of said received unit or said stored units based on said programming schedule;

identifying said first switch input;

communicating a switch control signal from the computer to the switch;

configuring the switch in response to the switch control signal to transfer the selected unit from the identified said first switch input to a switch output;

communicating the selected unit from the switch output to the subscriber over said output channel according to the programming schedule; and

logging said step of communicating.

64. The method of claim 63 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:

storing said received unit on the local source; and

loading a plurality of prerecorded units of said television programming onto the local source.

65. A method of controlling, at a television transmission station, the communication of units of television programming to a subscriber, the station having a computer for controlling the communication of units of said television programming, said station comprising a switch that

selectably connects one of a plurality of switch inputs to a switch output, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of said units of television programming onto one of a plurality of programming sources, each of said programming sources operatively connected to one of said switch inputs;

receiving a plurality of signals from a remote programming source;

receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates for at least one of said stored units at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating; and

(b) a time for communicating to the subscriber;

passing said received signals to the computer;

selecting one of said stored units in response to one of said signals;

identifying one of the switch inputs that are connected to the programming source storing the selected unit;

configuring the switch to transfer the selected unit from the identified one of the switch inputs to the switch output;

communicating the selected unit from the switch output to the subscriber according to the programming schedule; and

logging the step of communicating.

66. The method of claim 65 wherein said step of storing comprises the step of loading a plurality of prerecorded ones of said units of television programming onto the programming sources.

67. (Amended) The method of claim 65 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:

receiving [a plurality of said units of] television programming from [a television network] said remote source; and

storing said received [units] television programming on the programming sources.

68. (Amended) A method of controlling the communication of units of television programming to a subscriber comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of said units of television programming from a remote programming source;

storing a plurality of said units of television programming on a local programming source;

receiving a plurality of signals from said remote programming source;

receiving at a computer a programming schedule that designates for one or more units of said stored units or said received units at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating; and

(b) a time for communicating to the subscriber;

selecting one unit of said stored units or said received units based upon at least one of said received signals; and

communicating said selected unit to the subscriber at the time or on the channel designated by said programming schedule.

69. The method of claim 68 further comprising a step of logging the step of communicating said selected unit to the subscriber.

70. (Amended) The method of claim 68 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:

loading a plurality of prerecorded ones of said units of television programming onto the local programming source; and



storing said received units on the local source.

71. The method of claim 68 wherein said step of receiving a plurality of signals comprises the step of receiving said plurality of signals from the remote programming source, each of said signals identifying either one unit of said stored units or said received units or a source of one unit of said stored units or said received units.

72. A method of controlling, at a transmission station, the communication of units of television programming to a subscriber, the station having a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of units of said television programming from a remote programming source;

receiving a plurality of signals from a remote signal source;

selecting one of said received units in response to one of said signals;

determining, based on said one signal, whether said selected unit should be retransmitted to the subscriber immediately or whether said selected unit should be stored on a local programming source for delayed communication to the subscriber;

storing said selected unit on the local source if, based upon said step of determining, said selected unit should be stored for said delayed communication;

receiving a programming schedule that designates for some of said received units at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating; and

(b) a time for communication to the subscriber;

communicating, at the time or on the output channel designated by said programming schedule, said selected unit from the local source to the subscriber if the selected unit is stored on the local source;

logging the step of communicating to the subscriber.

73. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of communicating said selected unit to the subscriber if, based on said step of determining, the selected unit should be retransmitted immediately.

74. The method of claim 72 wherein said step of communicating comprises the steps of:

outputting, at a time or on a channel designated by said schedule, said selected unit from the local source if the selected unit is stored on the local source; and

transmitting the outputted unit to the subscriber via a cable distribution system.

75. (Amended) A method of controlling, at a television programming transmission station, the communication of units of said television programming to a subscriber, the station having a computer for controlling the communication of programming, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a unit of said television programming and a unit identification signal on a local programming source, said unit identification signal identifying said unit of television programming;

receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates for said stored unit at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating; and

(b) a time for communicating to the subscriber;

outputting said stored unit and said unit identification signal from the local source at the time or onto the output channel designated by said programming schedule;

communicating at least said outputted stored unit and said outputted unit identification signal to the subscriber;

detecting the unit identification signal outputted from the local programming source; and

logging said step of communicating based upon said step of detecting.

76. The method of claim 75 wherein said step of logging comprises the step of creating a record evidencing said step of communicating.

77. The method of claim 75 wherein said step of communicating comprises the step of communicating said outputted unit and said outputted unit identification signal to the subscriber.

78. (Amended) A method of controlling at a television transmission station the communication of television programming from at least one programming source to a subscriber, the station having a computer for controlling the communication of said television programming, the station comprising a switch, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a unit of said television programming from a remote programming source;  
receiving at a receiver a signal from the remote programming source, the receiver operatively connected to a first input of the switch;

storing a plurality of units of said programming [onto] on a local programming source located at said station, said local source operatively connected to a second input of the switch;

scheduling, for communication, one of said stored units;

selecting at least one unit of said received unit or said stored units based on the received signal;

identifying the first or second input connected to the selected unit;

communicating a switch control signal from the computer to the switch;

configuring the switch in response to said switch control signal to transfer the selected unit from the identified switch input to a switch output;

communicating said selected unit from said switch output to the subscriber.

79. (Amended) A method of controlling the communication of television programming to a subscriber, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a unit of said television programming from a remote programming source;
- receiving at a receiver a signal from the remote programming source, said receiver operatively connected to a first input of a switch;
- storing a unit of said programming on a local programming source, said local programming source operatively connected to a second input of the switch, the switch operatively connecting one of the first or second inputs to at least one switch output;
- receiving a programming schedule designating for at least one unit of said received unit or said stored unit at least one of:
  - (a) an output channel to be used in communicating;
  - (b) a time for communicating to the subscriber;
- detecting said received signal;
- identifying that said detected signal is a predetermined signal; and
- selecting one unit of said received unit or said stored unit in response to said step of identifying said detected signal;
- identifying the first or second input connected to the selected unit;
- configuring the switch to transfer the selected unit from the identified first or second input to the at least one switch output;
- communicating the selected unit from the at least one switch output to the subscriber, said selected unit being communicated with a unit identification signal and according to said programming schedule, said unit identification signal identifying the selected unit; and
- logging said step of communicating, said step of logging comprises the steps of:
  - (a) detecting the unit identification signal during said step of communicating; and
  - (b) creating a record evidencing said step of communicating based on said step of detecting the unit identification signal.

80. The method of claim 78 or 79 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:  
storing said received unit on the local source; and  
loading a plurality of prerecorded units of said television programming onto the local source.

81. The method of claim 62, 63, 65, 68, 72, 75, 78 or 79 wherein said step of receiving said programming schedule comprises the steps of:  
receiving the programming schedule from a remote information source; and  
storing the received programming schedule.

82. The method of claim 5, 10, 31, 40, 56, 62, 63, 65, 68, 72, 75, 78, or 79, wherein said step of receiving said units of said television programming from said remote source further comprises the step of receiving data identifying said units.

83. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling the communication of units of television programming to a plurality of subscribers, said apparatus comprising:  
a receiver for receiving units of said television programming and signals from a remote programming source;

a television programming storage device storing said television programming units and for outputting [or playing] said stored units, said storage device storing signals identifying the stored units;

a switch having inputs operatively connected to said receiver and said storage device, said switch having one or more outputs operatively connected to one or more output channels;

a computer operatively connected to said receiver, said switch and said storage device, said computer having access to a programming schedule, the programming schedule designating for at least one unit of said received units or said stored units at least one of:

(a) a time to communicate to the subscriber; and

(b) one of said one or more output channels to be used for communicating to the subscriber; and

said computer programmed to perform the following steps:

(a) selecting each said unit of said received units or said stored units designated by said programming schedule from said received units and said stored units;

(b) configuring said switch and controlling said storage device to communicate said selected units to the subscriber according to said programming schedule.

84. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling the communication of units of television programming to a plurality of subscribers, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of storage devices, each of said storage devices storing at least one unit of said television programming and selectively outputting [or playing] television programming stored units, said storage device storing unit identification signals identifying the stored units;

a switch having inputs connected to said storage devices, said switch having one or more outputs operatively connected to one or more output channels;

a computer operatively connected to said switch and said storage devices, said computer having access to a programming schedule, the programming schedule designating for at least one unit of said stored units at least one of:

(a) a time to communicate to the subscribers; and

(b) an output channel for communicating to the subscribers;

a signal detector connected to the computer for detecting the unit identification signals;  
and

said computer programmed to perform the following steps for each unit of said stored units designated in the programming schedule:

(a) identifying one of said storage devices storing the designated unit;

(b) configuring said switch and controlling said storage device to output the designated unit with its unit identification signal;

(c) communicating the outputted unit to the subscriber according to the programming schedule; and

(d) logging the communication of said outputted unit based on information or data provided by the signal detector.

85. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of identifying a specific one of said at least one received unit of television programming on the basis of a unit identification signal embedded in said at least one received unit of television programming.

86. A method of communicating a television signal in a television network, said network comprising a television transmitter station, an intermediate station and a subscriber, said intermediate station comprising a computer and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a television signal in a file in the storage device;  
receiving a control signal at the intermediate station from the television transmitter station that designates said television signal;  
storing said control signal in the file on the storage device;  
selecting the television signal stored in the storage device based on the control signal; and  
communicating the selected television signal from the intermediate station to the subscriber.

87. The method of claim 86, further comprising the step of:  
embedding said control signal in said television signal.

88. (Amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said control signal is embedded in said television signal before said television signal is stored at said storage device, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of:

- (1) a datum that identifies a portion of said television signal;
- (2) a datum that identifies one of a television program and a commercial in said television signal;
- (3) a datum that identifies computer software in said television signal;
- (4) a datum that identifies at least one of a communication source, network, station, channel, system, time and a transmission;
- (5) a datum that identifies one of a source and a supplier of data;
- (6) a datum that identifies at least one of a [publication, article, publisher,] distributor and advertisement;
- (7) [a datum that specifies some of a way to instruct receiver end equipment what specific programming to select to one of play and record other than that immediately at hand, how to load it on one of player equipment and recorder equipment, when and how to one of play it and record it other than immediately, how to modify it, what at least one of equipment and channel and channels to transmit it on, when to transmit it, and how and where to at least one of file it and refile it and dispose of it; and
- (8)] a datum that designates a distance;
- [(9)] a datum that designates an addressed apparatus;
- [(10)] a datum that specifies at least one of where, when, and how to locate a signal;
- (11) a datum that informs a processor of a technique for identifying and processing a signal;]
- [(12)] a datum that is part of a decryption code;
- [(13)] a comparison datum that designates a communication schedule; and communicating said selected datum to a processor.



89. The method of claim 87, wherein said control signal is embedded in said television signal before said television signal is stored at said storage device, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of:

- (1) a switch control signal;
- (2) a timing control signal;
- (3) a locating control signal;
- (4) an instruct-to-contact signal that designates a remote receiver station;
- (5) an instruct-to-transfer signal that designates one of broadcast programming and cablecast programming;
- (6) an instruct-to-delay signal that designates one of broadcast programming and cablecast programming;
- (7) one of an instruct-to-decrypt and an instruct-to-interrupt signal that designates programming and one of a way to decrypt and interrupt;
- (8) one of an instruct-to-enable and an instruct-to-disable signal that designates an apparatus;
- (9) an instruct-to-record signal that designates one of a broadcast program and a cablecast program;
- (10) an instruction signal that controls a media presentation;
- (11) an instruction signal that governs one of a broadcast receiver station environment and a cablecast receiver station environment;
- (12) an instruct-to-power-on signal that designates a receiver;
- (13) an instruct-to-tune signal that designates one of a receiver and a frequency;
- (14) an instruct-to-coordinate signal that designates two apparatus;
- (15) an instruct-to-compare signal that designates one of a news transmission and a computer input;

(16) an identifier signal that causes a computer to instruct a plurality of tuners each to tune to one of a broadcast transmission and a cablecast transmission;

(17) an instruct-to-coordinate signal that designates two units of media information and one of an output time and an output place;

(18) an instruct-to-generate signal that designates an output datum;

(19) an instruct-to-transmit signal that designates a computer output;

(20) an instruct-to-overlay signal that designates a television image;

(21) an instruct-that-if signal that designates a function to perform if a predetermined condition exists;

(22) an instruct-to-enable-and-deliver signal that designates information that supplements a television program;

(23) an instruct-to-transmit signal that designates a computer peripheral storage device;

(24) a code signal that designates a datum to at least one of remove and embed; and

(25) a signal addressed to a receiver station apparatus; and  
communicating said selected signal to a processor.

90. (Amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said storage device [comprising] comprises a peripheral storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

communicating a portion of one of said file and television signal from said storage device to said computer.

91. The method of claim 86, wherein said storage device comprises a plurality of storage locations, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting a first of said plurality of storage locations; and

communicating said television signal one of to and from said selected first storage location.

92. The method of claim 91, further including the steps of:  
selecting a second of said plurality of storage locations; and  
communicating said television signal from said first of said plurality of storage locations  
to said second of said plurality of storage locations.

93. A method of controlling a computer to communicate a television signal in a  
television network, said television network comprised of a television transmission station and a  
television receiver station, said receiver station having a computer for communicating a  
television signal, said method comprising the steps of:

storing said television signal on a file storage medium at a memory location associated  
with said computer;

receiving from said television transmission station a control signal that designates  
computer software; and

transferring said computer software to said memory location in response to said control  
signal and

storing said computer software on said file storage medium, thereby to enable said  
computer to execute a technique for communicating a file and communicating said television  
signal in accordance with said technique.

94. The method of claim 93, further comprising the steps of:  
communicating an instruct-to-delay signal; and  
transferring said computer software to said memory location in response to said instruct-  
to-delay signal.

95. The method of claim 94, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving said instruct-to-delay signal from a remote data transfer source; and  
storing one of said signals in response to said instruct-to-delay signal.

96. (Amended) The method of claim 95, wherein said computer software comprises an identification datum that designates one of said television signal and said control [signal] signals and said instruct-to-delay signal comprises a communication schedule that designates a file and includes one of a communication time and a communication channel.

97. The method of claim 93, further comprising the steps of:  
comparing an identification datum contained in one of said television signal and control signal to a communication schedule; and  
communicating said file in accordance with said communication schedule.

98. The method of claims 93, further comprising the steps of:  
programming said computer to communicate instructions to a plurality of devices in response to said control signal that designates computer software, said plurality of devices including at least one of a television signal storage device, television signal switching device, computer file storage device and computer file switching device; and  
controlling a switch and said memory location in response to said control signal associated with one of said television signal and a communication schedule inputted at one of locally and at a remote data transfer station.

99. A method of controlling a computer to communicate a television signal in a television network, said television network comprised of a television transmission station and a television receiver station, said television receiver station having a computer for communicating said television signal, said method comprising the steps of:

programming said computer to communicate instructions to a plurality of devices in response to a control signal that designates computer software, said plurality of devices including

at least one of a television signal storage device, television signal switching device, computer file storage device and computer file switching device; and

storing said television signal on a file storage medium at a storage device associated with said computer;

receiving from said television transmission station said control signal that designates said computer software; and

storing said computer software on said file storage medium in response to said control signal, thereby to enable said computer to execute a technique for communicating a file stored on a storage device associated with said computer and communicate said television signal in accordance with said technique.

100. (Amended) The method of claim 99, wherein said control signal is embedded in said television signal before said television signal is stored at said storage device, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of:

- (1) a datum that identifies said television signal;
- (2) a datum that identifies one of a television program and a commercial in said television signal;
- (3) a datum that identifies said computer software in said television signal;
- (4) a datum that identifies one of a communication source, network, station, channel, system, time and transmission;
- (5) a datum that identifies one of a source of data and supplier of data;
- (6) a datum that identifies one of a publication, article, publisher, distributor and an advertisement;
- [(7) a datum that specifies some of a way to instruct receiver end equipment what specific programming to select one of to play and record other than that immediately at hand, how to load it on one of player equipment and recorder equipment, when and how to one of play

it and record it other than immediately, how to modify it, what at least one of equipment and channel and channels to transmit it on, when to transmit it, and how and where to at least one of file it and refile it and dispose of it; and]

[[8]7) a datum that designates a distance;

[[9]8) a datum that designates an addressed apparatus;

[[10) a datum that specifies at least one of where, when, and how to locate said television signal;

(11)a datum that informs a processor of a technique for identifying and processing said television signal;]

[[12]9)a datum that is part of a decryption code;

[[13]10)a comparison datum that designates a communication schedule; and communicating said selected datum to said processor.

101. The method of claim 99, wherein said control signal is embedded in said television signal before said television signal is stored at said storage device, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of:

(1) a switch control signal;

(2) a timing control signal;

(3) a locating control signal;

(4) an instruct-to-contact signal that designates a remote receiver station;

(5) an instruct-to-transfer signal that designates one of broadcast programming and cablecast programming;

(6) an instruct-to-delay signal that designates one of broadcast programming and cablecast programming;

(7) one of an instruct-to-decrypt and an instruct-to-interrupt signal that designates programming and a way to one of decrypt and interrupt;

- (8) one of an instruct-to-enable and an instruct-to-disable signal that designates an apparatus;
- (9) an instruct-to-record signal that designates one of a broadcast program and a cablecast program;
- (10) an instruction signal that controls a media presentation;
- (11) an instruction signal that governs one of a broadcast receiver station environment and a cablecast receiver station environment;
- (12) an instruct-to-power-on signal that designates a receiver;
- (13) an instruct-to-tune signal that designates one of said receiver and a frequency;
- (14) an instruct-to-coordinate signal that designates two apparatus;
- (15) an instruct-to-compare signal that designates one of a news transmission and a computer input;
- (16) an identifier signal that causes a computer to instruct a plurality of tuners each to tune to one of a broadcast transmission and a cablecast transmission;
- (17) an instruct-to-coordinate signal that designates two units of media information and one of an output time and an output place;
- (18) an instruct-to-generate signal that designates an output datum;
- (19) an instruct-to-transmit signal that designates a computer output;
- (20) an instruct-to-overlay signal that designates a television image;
- (21) an instruct-that-if signal that designates a function to perform if a predetermined condition exists;
- (22) an instruct-to-enable-and-deliver signal that designates information that supplements a television program;
- (23) an instruct-to-transmit signal that designates a computer peripheral storage device;
- (24) a code signal that designates a datum to one of remove and embed; and
- (25) a signal addressed to a receiver station apparatus; and communicating said selected signal to a processor.

102. (Amended) The method as in any one of claims 99, 100 or 101, further including the step of:

programming said receiver station to perform one of:

- (1) inputting a computer programming instruction to said computer in response to a command;
- (2) responding to said control signal embedded in a programming transmission;
- (3) storing receiver station attribute data; and
- (4) coordinating a programming presentation. [presentations in predetermined techniques; and
- (5) timing the communication of a plurality of signals in response to an instruct-to-coordinate datum.]

103. (Amended) A method of controlling the [handling] processing of a television signal at a television receiver station, said receiver station having a computer for at least one of storing, communicating, modifying and generating said television signal, said method comprising the steps of:

storing said television signal on a file storage medium at a storage device associated with said computer;

receiving, from a television transmission station, a control signal that designates computer software;

storing said computer software on said file storage medium in response to said control signal; and

executing a technique for communicating a file stored on said storage device associated with said computer and



communicating said television signal, thereby to enable said computer subsequently to at least one of store, communicate, modify and generate said television signal in accordance with said computer software.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein said control signal comprises an identifier datum that identifies programming in said television signal.

105. The method of claim 103, further including the step of:  
loading a file storage medium that contains said television signal on a recorder/player associated with said computer.

106. The method of claim 103, further including the step of:  
communicating a selected signal to one of a plurality of decryptors.

107. A method of controlling a computer to communicate television signals in a television network, said television network comprised of a television transmission station and a television receiver station, said television receiver station having a computer for communicating said television signals, said method comprising the steps of:

programming a processor to search for data embedded in said television signals;  
inputting an identifier code that designates computer software;  
storing at least one of said television signals on a file storage medium at a storage device associated with said computer;  
receiving from a remote source an information transmission that contains a control signal;  
selecting a storage location associated with said computer in response to said control signal; and

transferring said computer software to said storage device and storing said software on said file storage medium, thereby to enable said computer to execute a technique for

communicating a file stored on said file storage medium associated with said computer and communicate said television signal in accordance with said technique.

108. (Cancelled.)

109. (Cancelled.)

110. A method of communicating a television signal in a television network, said television network comprising a television transmitter station, an intermediate station, and a subscriber station, said intermediate station comprising a computer and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

- storing said television signal on the storage device;
- transmitting a control signal, from the television transmitter station to the intermediate station, said control signal designating the television signal;
- receiving, at the intermediate station, the control signal;
- detecting, at the intermediate station, the received control signal;
- storing the detected control signal in the storage device with the television signal;
- selecting said stored television signal based on the control signal stored with said television signal; and
- communicating said selected television signal to the subscriber.

111. The method of claim 110, further comprising the steps of:

- receiving an instruct-to-delay signal at said intermediate station, said instruct-to-delay signal instructing the intermediate station computer to delay the communication of the television signal;
- delaying said step of communicating in accordance with said received instruct-to-delay signal.

112. The method of claim 111, wherein said television signal comprises television programming, wherein said instruct-to-delay signal comprises a schedule designating said television programming, a communication time for television programming and a communication channel for television programming, said step of delaying comprising the steps of:

comparing the control signal to said schedule to determine the designated time and channel for communicating said television programming;

communicating said television programming to the subscriber at the designated time and on the designated channel according to said schedule.

113. (Amended) A method, at an origination station, of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate a control signal to a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at said origination station, said control signal to be transmitted to the intermediate transmitter station;

[one of receiving and generating] processing a signal, at the origination station, respecting said control signal;

transmitting the control signal and the signal respecting said control signal, from the origination station to the intermediate transmitter station, said intermediate transmitter station thereby being controlled to retransmit the control signal to said receiver station based on the signal respecting said control signal.

114. (Amended) The method of claim 113, wherein said signal respecting said control signal comprises one of a code and datum which operates at the remote intermediate transmitter station to identify information containing said control signal, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at the remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate said control signal to a transmitter at a specific time.

115. The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of:  
programming said remote intermediate transmitter station to control a processor and one or more selective transmission devices on the basis of said signal in respect of said control signal.

116. (Amended) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of embedding said signal respecting said control signal in said control signal before transmitting a portion of said control signal to said remote intermediate transmitter station.

117. A method of processing signals to create a record indicating a use of a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a subscriber station, an information transmission comprising said signal and a control signal, said signal previously effective at a transmitter station to control the transmission of said control signal in the information transmission to the subscriber station;

detecting the received signal;

communicating, to a remote station, information evidencing at least one of the transmission of said control signal from the transmitter station and an availability of said control signal at said subscriber station based on the detected signal.

118. The method of claim 117, wherein said record is created at said transmitter station.

119. The method of claim 117, wherein said record is created at said subscriber station.

120. The method of claim 117, wherein said signal is embedded in said control signal.

121. (Amended) A method for identifying and broadcasting or cablecasting television programming in a television transmission station that comprises storage means capable of storing at least one unit of television programming, [storage information] and unit identification information identifying each unit of programming, wherein said transmission station also comprises a plurality of broadcast and/or cablecast transmission means, internal transfer means capable of transferring television programming from said storage means to at least one selected broadcast or cablecast transmission means, control means for comparing identification information with schedule information, and controlling said internal transfer means, with each of said broadcast and/or cablecast transmission means capable of transmitting television programming over a channel, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting schedule information that identifies one of a category and a unit of television programming;

locating identification information in a television transmission that identifies a category or unit of television programming, said television transmission including television programming; and

determining that said identification information identifies television programming of a scheduled category or unit[;

transferring said identification information, via said internal transfer means, of said television programming to a selected one of said broadcast and/or cablecast transmission means], thereby to enable said station to broadcast and/or cablecast television programming of a scheduled category or unit.

122. A method of controlling the communication of television programming from a plurality of programming sources located at a television transmission station to a subscriber, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a programming schedule indicating, for each of a plurality of units of television programming from said plurality of programming sources:

- (a) programming unit identification information identifying the unit of programming; and

- (b) an output channel to be used in communicating said unit of television programming;

receiving control instructions from said plurality of programming sources;

locating each scheduled unit of programming; and

in response to receiving a predetermined one of said control instructions from one of said programming sources, performing the following steps:

- (a) outputting a scheduled unit of programming from said one of said programming sources; and

- (b) communicating via a broadcast and/or cablecast transmitter said scheduled unit of programming output from said one of said programming sources to a subscriber on the output channel as indicated by said programming schedule.

123. (Amended) A method of controlling the communication of television programming at a television transmission station, said station having a computer controlling the communication of television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding a control instruction in a unit of television programming;

storing said unit of television programming with said embedded control instruction at a television programming storage device;

inputting to said computer a programming schedule designating for each of a plurality of programming units at least one from the group consisting of:

- (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of programming;

- (b) an approximate time the unit of programming is to be communicated;

outputting units of television programming from said television programming storage [devices] device, said units of programming having control instructions embedded therein;  
detecting said control instructions in the units of television programming outputted from said television programming storage device;  
transmitting said units of television programming outputted from said television storage [devices] device to at least one subscriber [in response to] based on detecting said control instructions and according to said programming schedule.

124. (Amended) A method of controlling the communication of television programming at a television transmission station, said station having a computer controlling the communication of television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding a control instruction in a unit of television programming;  
storing said unit of television programming with said embedded control instruction at a television programming storage device;  
inputting to said computer a programming schedule indicating for each of a plurality of programming units an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of programming to a subscriber;  
outputting said units of television programming from said television programming storage [devices] device, said units of programming having said control instruction embedded therein;  
detecting said control instruction in the units of television programming outputted from said television programming storage device; and  
communicating said units of television programming outputted from said television storage [devices] device to at least one subscriber on the output [channels] channel indicated by the programming schedule in response to detecting said control instruction.

125. A method of communicating television programming from a television transmission station to a subscriber at a television subscriber station, said transmission station having a computer controlling the transmission of television programming, said subscriber station having a computer for controlling the communication of received television programming to the subscriber located at the subscriber station, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding a control instruction in a unit of television programming, said control instruction providing instructions as to the communication of said unit of programming to a subscriber;

transmitting said unit of television programming with said embedded control instruction from the transmission station to said subscriber station;

said step of transmitting thereby enabling the subscriber station to receive said unit of programming and enabling the subscriber station computer to detect said control instruction embedded in the unit, and enabling said subscriber station computer to communicate said unit of programming to a subscriber in accordance with said control instruction.

126. A method of communicating television programming from a television transmission station to a television subscriber station, said transmission station having a computer controlling the transmission of television programming, said subscriber station having a computer for controlling the communication of received television programming to a subscriber located at the subscriber station, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding a control instruction in a unit of television programming, said control instruction providing instructions as to the communication of said unit of television programming to a subscriber;

transmitting said unit of television programming with said embedded control instruction from the transmission station to said subscriber station;

receiving said unit of television programming at said subscriber station;



detecting, at said subscriber station, the embedded control instruction in said received unit of television programming;

communicating the received unit of television programming to a subscriber in accordance with said control instruction.

127. The method of claim 126 wherein said step of communicating comprises at least one of storing and displaying said television programming.

128. The method of claim 126 further comprising the step of displaying the received unit of television programming as instructed by said control instruction.

129. A method of communicating television programming from a television transmission station to a television subscriber station, said transmission station having a computer for controlling the transmission of television programming from the transmission station to a subscriber station, said transmission station comprising a storage device for storing television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding identification information in a unit of television programming, said identification information identifying the unit of programming;

storing said unit of television programming with the embedded identification information in the storage device located at the transmission station;

locating the unit of television programming in said storage device based upon the identification information embedded in the unit of television programming;

transmitting said stored and located unit of television programming from the transmission station to the subscriber station.

130. The method of claim 129 wherein said step of embedding comprises the step of embedding said identification information and a control instruction in said unit of programming,

said control instruction providing instructions as to the communication of said unit of programming from said television transmission station to the television subscriber station;

said step of storing comprises the step of storing the unit of programming with the embedded identification information and control instruction in a storage device located at the transmission station; and

said step of transmitting comprises the step of transmitting the unit of programming from the transmission station to the subscriber station in accordance with the control instruction embedded in the unit of programming.

131. The method of claim 130 wherein said step of transmitting comprises the step of transmitting the unit on an output channel and at a time designated by said control instruction.

132. An apparatus at a television transmission station for communicating television programming to a subscriber, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing and outputting information comprising television programming and control instructions, at least some of said control instructions providing instructions as to the communication of programming from the transmission station to a subscriber;

a controller operatively connected to said storage device for receiving said control instructions; and

a transmitter operatively connected to an output of said storage device and operatively connected to said controller, said transmitter for transmitting television programming to a subscriber under control of said controller, and in accordance with said control instructions.

133. The apparatus of claim 132 wherein said control instructions are embedded in said television programming, said apparatus further comprising:

a detector operatively connected to said storage device and said controller for detecting said control instructions and passing said control instructions to said controller.

134. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 133 wherein said controller is operatively connected to said storage device and operatively connected to said detector, said controller controlling outputting of selected television programming in accordance with said control instructions [and in response to said control instructions].

135. The apparatus of claim 133 wherein at least some of said control instructions identify units of said television programming.

136. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein one of said control instructions designates the distance to at least one of:

- (a) the beginning of a specific unit of said television programming; and
- (b) the end of a specific unit of said television programming.

137. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 133, wherein said detector is operatively connected to the input of said storage device, and said detector detects said control instructions in said television programming prior to storage of said programming in said storage device.

138. The apparatus of claim 133, wherein said detector detects said control instructions in said television programming after storage of said programming in said storage device.

139. The apparatus of claim 133, wherein said detector detects said control instructions in said television programming when said storage device outputs said television programming.

140. The apparatus of claim 132 wherein at least one of said control instructions designates where and when to transmit units of programming to a subscriber.

141. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 132, further comprising a switch operatively connected to said storage device and said transmitter, said switch comprising an input channel connected to said storage device and a plurality of output channels connected to said transmitter, said switch connecting said storage device to a selected output channel, said controller configuring said switch to communicate each of selected units of programming to a subscriber [over a said selected output channel] based upon said control instructions.

142. (Amended) A method at a television programming origination station of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate television programming to a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at an origination station television programming to be transmitted to the intermediate transmitter station;

[receiving or generating] processing a control signal at the origination station, said control signal related to said television programming;

transmitting the television programming and the control signal related to said television programming from the origination station to the intermediate transmitter station; and said intermediate transmitter station thereby being controlled to retransmit the television programming to a receiver station based on said control signal related to said television programming.

143. The method of claim 142, wherein said control signal related to said television programming comprises a code or datum which is used at the remote intermediate transmitter station to identify said television programming, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which is used at the remote intermediate transmitter station to control communication of said television programming to a transmitter at a specific time.

144. The method of claim 142, further comprising the step of programming said remote intermediate transmitter station to control a processor and one or more selective transfer devices on the basis of said control signal related to said television programming, said processor controlling retransmission of said television programming through said one or more selective transfer devices to said receiver station.

145. The method of claim 142, further comprising the step of embedding said control signal in a signal containing said television programming before transmitting at least a portion of said signal containing said television programming to said remote intermediate transmitter station.

146. (Amended) A method of processing signals to create a record indicating the use [or usage] of a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a subscriber station an information transmission comprising a control signal and television programming, said control signal previously effective at a transmitter station to control the transmission of said television programming in the information transmission to the subscriber station;

detecting said received control signal;

creating a record at said subscriber station, said record containing information evidencing the transmission of said television programming from the transmitter station or the receipt of said television programming at said subscriber station based on the detected control signal; and

communicating to a remote station said record containing information evidencing the transmission of said television programming from the transmitter station or the receipt of said television programming at said subscriber station based on the detected control signal.

147. The method of claim 146, wherein said record is created at a transmitter station.

148. The method of claim 146, wherein said record is created at a viewer station.

149. The method of claim 146, wherein said control signal is embedded in said television programming.

150. An apparatus located at a television transmission station for communicating television programming to a subscriber, said apparatus comprising:

a first storage device for storing and outputting an information transmission comprising television programming and control instructions, said control instructions being embedded in said information transmission, at least some of said control instructions providing instructions as to the communication of said television programming from said transmission station to said subscriber;

a second storage device operatively connected to said first storage device for receiving and storing said television programming and said control instructions output by said first storage device and for outputting said television programming and said control instructions;

a detector operatively connected to said storage devices for detecting the presence of said control instructions embedded in said information transmission;

a controller operatively connected to said first storage device, said second storage device, and said detector for receiving said control instructions and for controlling said first storage device to output selected television programming, and for controlling said second storage device to store said selected television programming in accordance with said control instructions, and for controlling said second storage device to output said selected television programming in accordance with said control instructions; and

a transmitter operatively connected to said second storage device for transmitting said television programming to said subscriber.

151. An apparatus located at a television transmission station for controlling the communication of television programming, said apparatus comprising:

a programming storage device for storing and outputting an information transmission comprising television programming and control instructions embedded in said information transmission;

a switch operatively connected to said programming storage device, said switch comprising a plurality of output channels, with each output channel capable of communicating said information transmission to a subscriber, said switch connecting said storage device to selected output channels;

a detector operatively connected to said programming storage device detecting the presence of said control instructions embedded in said information transmission;

a first computer for receiving a programming schedule in response to said control instructions, said programming schedule designating at least one of:

(a) the scheduled identification information designating said television programming;

(b) the output channel to be used for communicating said television programming to said subscriber; and

(c) the approximate time of communication to said subscriber if said television programming is to be communicated to said subscriber; and

a second computer operatively connected to said programming storage device, said switch, said detector, and said first computer, for configuring said switch to communicate said television programming from said programming storage device to said selected output channels according to said programming schedule.

152. An apparatus for controlling the communication of television programming, said apparatus comprising:

a switch comprising at least one input channel and a plurality of output channels;

a plurality of programming recorder/players connected to said switch for recording and playing said television programming, said switch connecting said programming recorder/players selectively to said output channels;

a detector operatively connected to a selected one of said plurality of programming recorder/players for detecting control instructions stored at said selected programming recorder/player; and

a computer operatively connected to said plurality of programming recorder/players, said switch and said detector, said computer controlling said selected programming recorder/player to locate and play selected television programming stored at said selected programming recorder/player, said computer configuring said switch to connect said selected programming recorder/player to a selected one of said plurality of output channels, with said computer controlling said selected programming recorder/player and said switch in response to said control instructions.

153. An apparatus for controlling the communication of television programming, said apparatus comprising:

a switch having at least one input channel and at least one output channel;

a plurality of programming storage devices connected to said switch for storing and outputting said television programming, said switch connecting said storage devices selectively to said output channel;

a computer operatively connected to said storage devices and said switch, said computer controlling a selected storage device to locate and output selected television programming stored at said selected storage device, said computer configuring said switch to connect said selected



storage device to said output channel, with said computer controlling said selected storage device and said switch in response to a control instruction; and

a detector operatively connected to said output channel and said detector for detecting said control instruction in an information transmission communicated by said output channel and inputting said control instruction to said computer.

154. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling the communication of television programming in response to control instructions from a plurality of control sources, said control sources comprising a remote control instruction source and a local control instruction source, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing and outputting an information transmission containing television programming and control instructions;

a processor operatively connected to said plurality of control sources [and said storage device] for identifying [the] a source of one of said control instructions and generating source identification information in response to said identifying;

a controller operatively connected to said storage device and said processor for controlling said storage device to store [and output] information in response to said control instructions from said plurality of control sources and said source identification information inputted to said controller from said processor and output said information.

155. An apparatus for controlling the communication of television programming in response to control instructions, said apparatus comprising:

a switch comprising an input channel for receiving an information transmission and an output channel for communicating said information transmission, said information transmission comprising television programming and control instructions;

a programming storage device operatively connected to said switch for receiving, storing and communicating said information transmission;

a computer operatively connected to said switch and said storage device for receiving said control instructions from said storage device and controlling said switch to receive television programming from said storage device and communicate television programming to said storage device in response to said control instructions.

156. An apparatus for collecting data on the communication of programming, said programming comprising a plurality units of one of:

- (a) television programming, and
- (b) computer programming,

said apparatus comprising:

a programming storage device for storing and outputting said plurality of units of programming and program unit identification data, with each unit of programming having an associated program unit identification datum for identifying said unit of programming;

a controller operatively connected to said storage device for controlling said storage device to output selected units of said programming;

a programming transmitter operatively connected to said storage device for communicating said selected units of programming to a subscriber station; and

a data storage device operatively connected to said programming transmitter for receiving and storing a program unit identification datum associated with each of said selected units of programming communicated by said programming transmitter.

157. The apparatus of claim 156 further comprising:

a data transmitter for communicating data stored at said data storage device to a remote data collection station.

158. A television transmission station apparatus for storing and communicating television programming, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing and outputting units of information comprising television programming and control instructions;

a transmitter for communicating television programming to a receiver station;

a decoder operatively connected to said storage device for detecting said control instructions in said units of information;

a first controller operatively connected to said decoder for controlling the detection of said control instructions by said decoder; and

a second controller operatively connected to said first controller and said storage device for controlling said storage device to output selected units of television programming to said transmitter in response to said control instructions.

159. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 158, wherein said control instructions comprise: (1) control instructions for controlling the operation of said first controller and said second controller and (2) programming unit identification information identifying said selected units of television programming.

160. (Amend) The apparatus of claim 158, wherein said first controller identifies said units of television programming based upon information in said control instructions, said first controller being programmed with the pattern of signal composition or of signal timing for the units of information to enable said decoder to detect said control instructions and said first controller to identify said selected units of television programming and said control instructions.

161. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 158, wherein said control instructions contain digital data and are embedded in said television programming.

162. A television transmission station apparatus for storing and communicating television programming, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing and outputting units of information comprising units of television programming and control instructions;

a plurality of transmitters, each of said plurality of transmitters being connected to said storage device for communicating selected units of said television programming to a receiver station over a channel;

a communication means operatively connected to said storage device and said plurality of transmitters for connecting said storage device to selected ones of said plurality of transmitters;

a decoder operatively connected to said storage device for locating and identifying said control instructions and said units of television programming;

a first controller operatively connected to said decoder and said storage device for controlling the locating and identifying of said control instructions and said units of television programming; and

a second controller operatively connected to said first controller, said storage device and said communication means, said second controller controlling said storage device to output said selected units of television programming to said selected transmitters for transmission in response to said control instructions.

163. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 162, wherein said communication means is a switch.

164. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 162, wherein said first and second controllers comprise a single controller.

165. (Amended) A television transmission station apparatus for storing and communicating television programming, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing and outputting units of information comprising units of television programming and control instructions;

a plurality of transmitters operatively connected to said storage device, with each of said plurality of transmitters capable of communicating selected units of television programming to a receiver station;

a decoder operatively connected to said storage device for locating and identifying said control instructions;

a controller operatively connected to said decoder for controlling the locating and identifying of said control instructions; and

a computer operatively connected to said [first] controller, said decoder and said transmitters, said computer receiving said control instructions and for determining the identity of said selected units of television programming based upon said control instructions, and said computer controlling said storage device based upon said control instructions to output said selected units of television programming to at least one of said transmitters for transmission to said receiver station.

166. The apparatus of claim 165 wherein each said control instructions is associated with a unit of television programming, each said control instruction comprising unit identification information that identifies its associated unit of television programming.

167. The apparatus of claim 166 further comprising a second storage device connected to said computer and an input device operatively connected to said computer, said input device for inputting said television programming unit identification information, said inputted unit identification information being stored in said second storage device, said decoder identifying units of television programming that have unit identification information that corresponds to said inputted unit identification information.

168. (Amended) A method of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station from a mass medium programming origination station to communicate mass medium programming to a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving mass medium programming at an origination station to be transmitted to a remote intermediate transmitter station, said mass medium programming including at least audio;

receiving or generating an identifier at said origination station, said identifier capable of identifying said mass medium programming by at least one of title and content;

transmitting said mass medium programming and said identifier from said origination station to said remote intermediate transmitter station, said remote intermediate transmitter station thereby being controlled to retransmit said mass medium programming to at least one receiver station based on said identifier.

169. The method of claim 168, wherein said identifier comprises a code or datum which operates at said remote intermediate transmitter station to identify said mass medium programming, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at said remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate said mass medium programming based on said identifier to a transmitter at a specific time.

170. The method of claim 168, further comprising the step of programming said remote intermediate transmitter station to control a processor and at least one selective transmission device in accordance with said identifier.

171. The method of claim 168, further comprising the step of embedding said identifier in said mass medium programming before transmitting said mass medium programming to said remote intermediate transmitter station.

172. (Amended) A method of processing signals to create a record indicating the use or usage of a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a subscriber station an information transmission comprising an identifier and mass medium programming, said identifier capable of identifying said mass medium programming by at least one of title and content, and said identifier being previously effective at a transmitter station to control the transmission of said mass medium programming in said information transmission to said subscriber station;

detecting said identifier;

communicating to a remote station on the basis of said identifier, information evidencing at least one of: (a) the transmission of said mass medium programming from said transmitter station; and (b) the availability of said mass medium programming at said subscriber station.

173. The method of claim 172, wherein said record is created at said transmitter station.

174. (Amended) The method of claim 172, wherein said record is created [at] outside said [subscriber] transmitter station.

175. The method of claim 172, wherein said identifier is embedded in said mass medium programming.

176. A method of communicating signals in a network comprised of an origination station that transmits signals, at least one intermediate station that receives and retransmits signals, and at least one ultimate receiver station that receives signals from one or more intermediate stations, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of signals from said origination station;

receiving said plurality of signals at said at least one intermediate station;

identifying a designated time for retransmitting each said received signal from said at least one intermediate station;

identifying at least one of said received signal for delayed retransmission;

determining a designated period of time for delaying the retransmission of said at least one received signal identified for delayed retransmission;

storing each signal identified for delayed transmission for its designated period of time at said at least one intermediate station based on said step of determining;

retransmitting each received signal from the intermediate transmission station;

receiving at said at least one ultimate receiver station each of the signals retransmitted from said at least one intermediate station.

177. The method of claim 176 further comprising the step of receiving at said at least one intermediate station schedule information identifying said at least one received signal as being for delayed retransmission from said at least one intermediate station, said schedule designating a time of retransmission or a designated period of time for storing said at least one received signal prior to retransmission.

178. A method of communicating television programming in a television network comprised of an origination station that transmits programming, at least one intermediate station that receives and retransmits programming, and at least one ultimate receiver station that receives programming from one or more intermediate stations, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of units of television programming from a television origination station, said plurality of units of television programming including video and audio;

receiving said units of programming at said at least one intermediate station;

identifying a designated time for retransmitting each received unit from said at least one intermediate station;

identifying at least one of said received unit for delayed retransmission;



determining a designated period of time for delaying the retransmission of said at least one received unit identified for delayed retransmission;

storing each unit identified for delayed transmission for its designated period of time at said at least one intermediate station based on said step of determining;

retransmitting each received unit from the intermediate transmission station;

receiving at said at least one ultimate receiver station each of the units retransmitted from said at least one intermediate station.

179. A method of communicating signals in a network comprised of an origination station that transmits signals, at least one intermediate station that receives and retransmits signals, and at least one ultimate receiver station that receives signals from one or more intermediate stations, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at an intermediate station a plurality of signals transmitted from an origination station, with at least one of said received signals being designated for delayed retransmission, said at least one of said received signals including audio;

determining at least one of a designated time and a designated order for retransmitting each received signal;

storing at the intermediate station one or more of said received signals designated for delayed transmission; and

retransmitting each of said received signals from said intermediate station to an ultimate receiver station at at least one of its designated time and in its designated order.

180. A method of communicating a station specific presentation from a television or radio transmission station, said transmission station comprising at least one storage device for storing video or audio information associated with a unit of television or radio programming, at least one signal generator for embedding video or audio information into a television or radio transmission, and a computer for selecting specific video or audio information and controlling

the embedding of information into a television or radio programming transmission, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a control signal that designates a specific unit of television or radio programming, said specific one of television and radio programming including audio;  
selecting at least one of video and audio information associated with said specific unit of television or radio programming; and  
embedding said selected video or audio information with the specific unit of television or radio programming into a transmission, thereby enabling a viewer, listener or subscriber to receive a station specific television or radio programming presentation; and  
transmitting said transmission.

181. (Amended) A method of [displaying or communicating] outputting a station specific presentation at a receiver station, said receiver station comprising at least one storage device for storing locally specific video or audio information related to a unit of television or radio programming, a computer for controlling the display of the presentation, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first control signal designating a unit of programming;  
selecting the unit of programming designated by said received first control signal, said unit of programming containing audio;

storing at the station at least one locally specific at least one of audio and video information related to said unit of programming;

receiving a second control signal; and

performing the following steps in response to receiving said second control signal:

(a) combining the locally specific audio or video information with the selected unit of programming; and

(b) outputting [or communicating] the selected unit of programming and the locally specific audio or video information to provide a station specific presentation to

one or more output devices or television monitors comprising the selected unit of programming and the related locally specific audio or video information.

182. The method of claim 181, wherein said step of combining comprises overlaying.

183. A method of controlling the communication of data and programming at a receiver station, said receiver station comprising a receiver for receiving an information transmission, at least one output device, and a computer for controlling the communication of information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving point-to-multipoint information transmission containing at least one processor instruction, each said at least one processor instruction designating a unit of information;

inputting at least a portion of said received information transmission to the computer to enable the computer to at least one of output and transfer units of information in response to said at least one processor instruction; and

transferring at least one designated unit of information to said output device in response to said at least one processor instruction.

184. The method of claim 183, wherein said step of transferring comprises the step of outputting said at least one designated unit of information to a presentation device to at least one of present and display the units of information to a subscriber, user, or viewer.

185. The method of claim 183, wherein said step of transferring comprises the step of transferring said at least one designated unit of information to a transmitter, said method further comprising the step of transmitting said at least one unit of information to a subscriber station.

186. (Amended) A method of communicating at least one of radio and television programming from an intermediate station, said intermediate station having at least one receiver

for receiving at least one digital information transmission containing a plurality of signal types, at least one signal [detectors] detector for detecting a predetermined signal in said at least one digital information transmission, and a processor for controlling the detection of said predetermined signal based on at least one of a varying timing location and a varying timing pattern, said method comprising the steps of:

storing information of at least one of a varying location and a varying timing pattern in which to receive said predetermined signal;

receiving a plurality of information transmissions, said plurality of information transmissions containing said at least one of radio and television programming and said at least one digital information transmission, at least one of (1) said at least one of radio and television programming and (2) said at least one digital information transmission being received from at least one remote origination station, said at least one digital information transmission including a plurality of signal types, said plurality of signal types being transmitted in at least one of varying locations and varying timing patterns, said at least one of radio and television programming including audio;

detecting said predetermined signal on the basis of said stored information;

determining which of said plurality of information transmissions contains said at least one of television and radio programming based on said step of detecting;

selecting said at least one of television and radio programming;

selecting at least one of an output channel and an output frequency; and

retransmitting said at least one of television and radio programming to a subscriber station via said selected one of said output channel and said output frequency.

187. The method of claim 186 wherein said intermediate station includes a plurality of receivers and a switch capable of connecting at least one of said receivers to a channel modulator, each receiver receiving at least one of said plurality of information transmissions, said method further comprising the steps of:

identifying which of said receivers is receiving said at least one of television and radio programming based on said step of determining; and  
configuring the switch to connect the identified receiver to the channel modulator.

188. A method of communicating signals from an intermediate station, said intermediate station comprising a plurality of receivers for receiving an information transmission, at least one output device, said output device being either a transmitter for transmitting an information transmission or a presentation device for presenting information to a viewer or user and at least one computer for controlling the communication of information to said output device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at said intermediate station a plurality of information transmissions from an origination station, each transmission containing at least one signal;

(b) retransmitting designated ones of said received signals from said intermediate station, with each signal transmitted on a designated channel; and

(c) determining which of said information transmissions communicate a specific one of said signals, thereby to enable said intermediate station to select and retransmit the specific signal on a designated channel or frequency.

189. A method of communicating signals from an intermediate transmission station, said transmission station comprising a plurality of transmitters, each transmitter for transmitting an information transmission, said intermediate station comprising a computer for controlling the communication of information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an information transmission, said information transmission comprising a signal;  
inputting information that designates an output channel or frequency for communicating or transmitting the received signal to a viewer or user, each of a plurality of intermediate transmission station transmitters transmitting signals over one or more output channels or frequencies;

storing said inputted information;  
comparing at least a portion of the received signal to the inputted information;  
determining the output channel or frequency designated for the received signal based on said step of comparing;  
selecting one of the plurality of transmitters at the transmission station, said selected transmitter transmitting over the output channel or frequency designated for the received signal;  
transferring the received signal to the selected transmitter;  
transmitting the received signal from the intermediate station to a viewer or user over the designated output channel or frequency using the selected transmitter.

190. (Amended) The method of claim 189, wherein said received signal comprises a unit of electronic or computer data, said unit comprising an identification portion and an information portion, said step of comparing comprises comparing the [information] identification portion to the inputted information.

191. (Amended) The method of claim 189, wherein said received signal comprises a unit of television or radio programming and an embedded identification signal, said step of inputting comprises inputting a programming schedule that designates an output channel or frequency for the received unit of programming, said step of comparing comprises the step of comparing the embedded identification signal of the received unit to the inputted programming schedule.

192. A method of communicating signals at a transmission station, said transmission station having a receiver or input device for receiving or inputting programming, at least one storage device for storing received or inputted programming, a transmitter and a computer for controlling the receiving, storing, processing, and transmitting of programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, either via the station receiver or the input device, a unit of programming;  
storing at a storage location the received unit of programming with an identification signal that identifies the unit of programming, said unit of programming including audio;  
receiving schedule information that designates for the stored unit of programming at least one of:

- (a) a time to transmit the stored unit to a receiver station; and
- (b) an output channel or frequency for transmitting the stored unit to the receiver station;

determining the storage location of the stored unit of programming based on the stored identification signal;

transmitting the stored unit of programming to the receiver station according to said schedule information.

193. A method of communicating signals at a transmission station, said transmission station having a receiver or input device for receiving or inputting programming, at least one storage device for storing received or inputted programming, a transmitter and a computer for controlling the receiving, storing, processing, and transmitting of programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, either via the station receiver or the input device, a unit of programming;  
storing at a first storage location the received unit of programming;  
storing at a second storage location information that allows the station computer to determine the storage location of the stored unit of programming;  
receiving schedule information that designates for the stored unit of programming at least one of:

- (a) a time to transmit the stored unit of programming to a receiver station; and
- (b) an output channel or frequency for transmitting the stored unit of programming to the receiver station;

determining the storage location of the stored unit of programming based on the information stored at the second storage location;

transmitting the stored unit of programming to the receiver station according to said schedule information.

194. (Amended) The method of claim 193, wherein said step of storing at a second storage location comprises the step of storing an identification signal with the stored unit of programming at the first storage location.

195. (Amended) The method of claim 194, wherein said step of determining comprises the steps of:

detecting the stored identification signal; and

determining the storage location of the stored unit based on said step of detecting the stored identification signal.

196. A method at a media programming origination station of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate media programming to a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at an origination station media programming to be transmitted to the intermediate transmitter station;

receiving or generating a signal at the origination station related to said media programming;

transmitting the media programming and the signal related to said media programming from the origination station to the intermediate transmitter station, said intermediate transmitter station thereby being controlled to retransmit the media programming to a receiver station based on the signal related to said media programming.



197. The method of claim 196, wherein said signal related to said media programming comprises a code or datum which operates at the remote intermediate transmitter station to identify said media programming, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at the remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate said media programming to a transmitter at a specific time.

198. The method of claim 196, further comprising the step of programming said remote intermediate transmitter station to control a processor and one or more selective transmission devices on the basis of said signal related to said media programming.

199. The method of claim 196, further comprising the step of embedding said signal in said media programming before transmitting said media programming to said remote transmitter station.

200. A method of processing signals to create a record indicating the use or usage of a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a subscriber station an information transmission comprising a signal and media programming, said signal previously effective at a transmitter station to control the transmission of said media programming in the information transmission to the subscriber station;

detecting the received signal;

communicating to a remote station information evidencing the transmission of said media programming from the transmitter station or the availability of said media programming at said subscriber station based on the detected signal.

201. (Amended) The method of claim 200, wherein said record is created at [a] said transmitter station.

202. (Amended) The method of claim 200, wherein said record is created [at a subscriber] outside said transmitter station.

203. The method of claim 200, wherein said signal is embedded in said media programming.